

# AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL

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*From "Langstroth on the Honey-Bee."*



The Late Rev. John Dzierzon, D. D.

(See page 1031)



# American Bee Journal



PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY  
**GEORGE W. YORK & COMPANY**  
 334 Dearborn Street, Chicago, Ill.

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1st.—To promote the interests of its members.  
 2d.—To protect and defend its members in their lawful rights.  
 3d.—To enforce laws against the adulteration of honey.

Annual Membership Dues, \$1.00.

General Manager and Treasurer —  
 N. E. FRANCE, Platteville, Wis.

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# American Bee Journal



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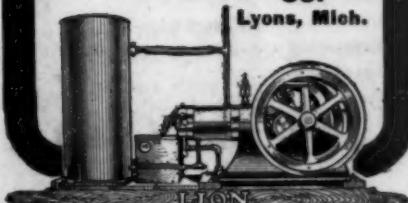
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#### Georgia

Savannah.....Howkins & Rush  
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#### Illinois

Chicago.....The A. I. Root Co.  
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**THE A. I. ROOT CO., Medina, Ohio**

# AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL

ILLANGSTRUT

DAVID

(Entered at the Post-Office at Chicago as Second-Class Mail-Matter.)

Published Weekly at \$1.00 a Year, by George W. York & Co., 334 Dearborn Street.

GEORGE W. YORK, Editor

CHICAGO, ILL., DECEMBER 20, 1906

Vol. XLVI—No. 51

## Editorial Notes and Comments

**A Merry Christmas** we wish to every reader of the old American Bee Journal. And may each one live to enjoy many more Christmasses in the years to come.

### A Sweet-Eating Nation

This is what we are, if one may judge from the amount of sugar consumed in the United States during last year. It is 75 pounds for each person, according to the following paragraph taken from the Farm Journal for December:

One billion one hundred and eighty-two million pounds of sugar were imported into the United States last year from our three insular possessions—Hawaii, Porto Rico and the Philippines. Of that vast quantity considerably more than half came from Hawaii, and only a small part from the Philippines. Nine hundred and fifty million pounds were produced in the United States proper. In addition to this we imported from Cuba, Germany, Dutch East Indies, Brazil and other countries, more than 3,000,000,000 pounds; the total consumption in the United States last year being about 75 pounds per capita, or more than 6,000,000,000 pounds, less than one-sixth of which was produced at home.

It does seem that if people generally knew how much superior honey is to sugar, that the former would soon take the place of the latter to a much greater extent than it does now. We know of no better way to familiarize the public with the excellent qualities of honey than through advertising. The National Bee-Keepers' Association has the oppor-

tunity of getting a whole lot of honey information in the newspapers at a very trifling expense. We hope it may soon be put into effect.

### New Pure Food Law and Honey

As probably nearly all of our readers know, we have a National Pure Food Law, which goes into effect Jan. 1, 1907. Mr. C. P. Dadant, President of the National Bee-Keepers' Association has this to say about it:

LETTER FROM C. P. DADANT.

Is the new Pure Food Law going to be of any benefit to the bee-keepers in their sales of honey? I can answer this question in the affirmative, and with emphasis. Allow me to state a few facts.

We have been producing honey—principally extracted—for nearly 40 years. In the early days of extraordinary production, there was much difficulty encountered in selling, because so many people were prejudiced against the granulation of honey. This prejudice still exists, but not in the same uniform condition as in the 70's.

Then glucose began to appear, and the adulterators plied their industry by furnishing a mixture which resembled honey, and did not granulate. An attempt was made to secure a pure food law, concerning the sweets at least. In 1880-82, petitions were circulated, asking Congress for a law. My father took the pains of circulating a special petition signed by bee-keepers, and secured some 10,000 names. This number would be small to-day, but it was large for that time. We were greatly encouraged in our efforts when we

found that the honest sugar manufacturers were also working for the same end. But all this was of no avail, and the petitions were buried.

Many and many times we deplored the fact that there was no way by which we could drive the spurious honey from the market. But we have at last reached the goal. Just one instance will show it:

I number among my friends a wholesale grocer who has for years carried on a most successful and straightforward business. He was handling spurious honey, in years past. To all my representations he would say:

"We can not avoid handling this stuff. Our customers ask for it and others keep it. We can not help ourselves; but we make no secret of the fact that we know it to be impure. We would like to handle your product, but it is too expensive."

This year, the same person told me this:

"We are now happy to be able to say that we can handle your honey. In fact, we can not handle any but pure honey, and I am right glad of it. I have always disliked to sell anything that did not show plainly its nature on the label. The Pure Food Law will cause trouble only to those who prepare these spurious goods, because it sets their business to naught. Give me your prices, and we will make an order. We may not sell much at first, but we know we need not fear the competition of a spurious article from our competitors in the wholesale grocery line, for they have to quit handling it also."

A few days later, we filled a large order for this firm. I asked how the goods sold. The reply was:

"This pure honey business is a little new. Some people object to granulation, but nothing can stand in the way, when we say that we have your guarantee, and are willing to add ours to it, as to the purity of the goods. Pure honey is going to sell, through the wholesale trade, as it never did before."

Those are the facts as I find them. Hurrah for the pure food laws! And although I have been for many years bitterly opposed to Prof. Wiley because of the big blunder he made with that comb honey story in the long ago, I feel



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quite willing to bury the hatchet, and forgive him for the part he has taken in securing this Pure Food Law.

C. P. DADANT.

We agree fully with Mr. Dadant in what he says in the foregoing. And we believe that there is a brighter day ahead for honey-producers, because of the increased prices they will be able to secure for their honey just as soon as the new Pure Food Law is enforced, so that honey will not need to come in competition with glucose and other adulterants which it has had to meet in the open market. Food products will have to be sold for what they are hereafter, and judging from what we have heard already, retailers are beginning to be mighty careful to know just what they are offering as honey.

Gleanings has done a good thing in preparing and publishing the following, which will well repay reading again if you have seen it before:

**THE NEW NATIONAL PURE-FOOD LAW; ITS PROVISIONS, PENALTIES, AND SCOPE.**

The Hepburn pure-food bill, one of the most important measures that ever passed Congress, became a law on June 30 of this year, but will not be in force until January 1, 1907. I have before me a copy of the law, and the rules and regulations applying to said law as they were prepared by the Secretaries of the Treasury, of Agriculture, and of Commerce and Labor. That the new law has "teeth" in it, can not be denied. It is going to do more to wipe out adulteration and misbranding than anything that has ever been done before in half a century. While in a sense it is restricted to interstate and territorial business, yet its practical working effect will be to prevent the dishonest food and medicine purveyors from doing business in *any State*, whether it has a pure-food law or not. No glucose mixer or adulterator, after Jan. 1st next, will dare put his goods on the market again; for if he does he is liable to run up against Uncle Sam in a way that will not only subject him to a heavy fine, but may put him behind the bars where he will stay for a time. It is a well-known fact that law-breakers are far more afraid of United States officials than mere State officers.

It is vitally necessary that every bee-keeper and honey-seller know something about this new law. Even honest men might inadvertently become entrapped; and it is important, alike for both the law-abiding as well as the would-be law-breaker to know what the law is.

In a general way it makes it a crime against the United States to misbrand or adulterate any food product, medicine, or liquor, without showing the exact contents on the outside of the package. In any State where there is no pure-food law one may adulterate and misbrand as before, *providing* his products do not go beyond the limits of that State. But the moment they pass beyond the border-line into another State he is liable to fine and imprisonment. There is where the rub is. Inasmuch as it would be impossible to do a strictly within-the-State business, the practical working effect of the law would be that misbranding and adulterating will have to stop on every foot of ground owned or controlled by any State or by the United States as a whole. The law goes further. One can not adulterate or misbrand goods that are to be used for export into a foreign country without taking fearful chances.

**PENALTIES.**

Any person who shall violate any provision of this law relating to an interstate or territorial business shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall, on conviction, be fined not to exceed \$500, or be sentenced to one year's imprisonment, or both; such fine and imprisonment to be at the discretion of the court. For each subsequent offense and conviction he shall be fined not less than \$1,000, or sentenced to one year's imprisonment, or both, at the discretion of the court.

The penalty for exporting misbranded or adulterated goods will be \$200 for the first offense, and \$500 for a succeeding offense, or to be imprisoned, one year, or both, at the discretion of the court.

**GUARANTEE OF PURITY REQUIRED.**

A special feature of this bill is that no dealer in food or drug products will be liable to prosecution if he can show that the goods were sold under a guarantee of purity from the wholesaler, manufacturer, jobber, dealer, or other party residing in the United States, from whom purchased. It is proper to remark right here that it is very important that every purchaser of honey or beeswax secure from each wholesaler, jobber, or producer, that the goods purchased are guaranteed by him to be pure. In the event that it is found afterward that they are adulterated or misbranded, the presentation of this guarantee by the dealer will protect him, when proceedings will be taken up against the maker of the guarantee, and he, in turn, as I understand the law, can go back to the original producer, provided, of course, that he, in turn, is protected also by a guarantee of purity from said producer. As I understand it, this guarantee will not apply in any case where the original package in which the goods were received has been broken and the goods have been put into other packages.

It will come to pass that, before a sale can be consummated, a guarantee of purity will have to be furnished. When the examination or analysis shows that the food or drugs are adulterated, the dealer furnishing such goods shall be duly notified.

**PROCEDURE WHEN ADULTERATION OR MISBRANDING HAS BEEN DETECTED BY A UNITED STATES OFFICER.**

Section 4 of the law is liberal toward the suspected offender in that it gives him a chance for a hearing before the actual penalty is applied. When examination or analysis shows that he is possibly or probably guilty, notice is served to him or to the parties from whom he obtained the goods, or who executed the guarantee as provided in the law. A date is fixed by the Secretary of Agriculture, or such other official connected with the food and drug inspection service as may be commissioned by him for that purpose, when a hearing shall be held. Said hearing shall be in private, and shall be confined to questions of fact. If it be shown that a mistake has been made, the parties shall be discharged; but if it be shown that he is guilty, the fact will be published, and in addition the offender will be subject to the penalties already mentioned.

The adulterators of food products fear publicity more than anything else. They do not care so much about a small fine, but Uncle Sam has fixed it so that the law-breakers shall get a big fine, some free advertising, and, in addition, a free ride, perhaps, to prison. No wonder there was a tremendous glucose lobby present to kill or weaken the measure when it was before Congress. No wonder the liquor and patent-medicine people feared it.

**MISBRANDING, OR LABELING HONEY AS COMING FROM ONE APIARY THAT WAS PRODUCED IN ANOTHER.**

Not only is it made a crime against the United States to misbrand an article of food by putting out a cheap substitute under the name of something better, as, for example, a glucose mixture for honey, but it will also be unlawful to sell a pure honey under a label showing that it came from some particular apiary when, as a matter of fact, it was produced in another. Let us take a concrete case: Mr. John Jones has purchased a lot of labels that read: "Pure Honey from the Apiary of John Jones." We will say he has produced 10,000 pounds of extracted honey. He has a right to use this label on all the honey he produces in his apiary or apiaries, *but on no other, however pure*. He builds up a big trade, and there is more demand for his goods. His 10,000 pounds of his own production is all gone. He goes out into the open market and buys more honey of the same source, no better and no worse than he produces in his own yard; but if he uses the same label to put out this honey he will be rendering himself liable, if I understand the law. It is true no chemist could ever show whether the honey bearing such labels was produced in his apiary or not; but other evidence might show a misbranding, and our Mr. Jones would be up against Uncle Sam in a way that would kill him before his old trade.

The law does not prevent him, however, from adopting a trade label of wider scope reading something like this: "Pure Clover

Honey put up by John Jones." Under this label he may sell his own honey and that which he purchases. But just the moment he buys a mountain sage or a pure basswood, and sells it under that label, he will be rendering himself liable again. If he desires to have a stock label that will apply to both white, red, and alfalfa clover honey he can use the words: "Pure Clover Honey put up by John Jones," for alfalfa is a clover the same as sweet or red clover. He might, in my opinion, without being liable, put up a blend of white clover and alfalfa; but if he desired to make a blend of clover and basswood or sage honey, he had better adopt the wording, "Pure Extracted Honey, put up by John Jones." In every case, when John Jones buys honey he will do well to require the seller to give him a guarantee of purity.

The law is very clear in making it unlawful to represent that a certain food product was produced in any particular State when, as a matter of fact, it came from another State. To illustrate, no more can Ohio cheese be sold as York State cheese. In the same way, Wisconsin honey could not be put up under the name of York State honey without rendering somebody liable.

**FORM OF GUARANTEE.**

As I have already stated, it is quite important that every bee-keeper, when he buys honey from some other bee-keeper, jobber, or dealer, make him give a guarantee of purity. The guarantee suggested is as follows:

I [we] the undersigned do hereby guarantee that honey or beeswax shipped, distributed, or sold by me [us] [specifying the same as fully as possible] is not adulterated or misbranded within the meaning of the food and drugs act, June 30, 1906. *(Signed in ink.)*

Our customers are asking us to furnish this guarantee, and we in turn are asking those who furnish us honey or beeswax to give us the same guarantee. No producer or jobber should hesitate to furnish such a writing: for the moment he hesitates, that moment his goods will be under suspicion.

**GENERAL EFFECT OF THE LAW.**

There are many other provisions of this law; but those already given are the principal ones that relate to bee-keeping. Suffice it to say, its general provisions apply equally to all products, medicines, and liquors. No more can a medicine be sold under an innocent name and yet contain some powerful poison, *unless* the exact amount of such poison as well as other ingredients be stated on the label. Thousands of people have died as the result of liquor, cocaine, strychnine, and other deadly poisons administered in medicines having an innocent name.

The effect of this provision of the law is going to be to drive a lot of dangerous proprietary medicines out of the market. As soon as the dear public knows what these innocent-sounding medicines are, it will leave them severely alone, and it ought to.

This national pure-food law may rope in some innocent bee-keepers and other well-meaning persons; but it is their business to know the law, and Gleanings has taken this opportunity to inform them.

Every pound of honey that one buys of somebody else should be covered by a guarantee, else the purchaser may assume a great risk; and, further, the label shall not be misleading in any manner whatsoever.

**Honey as a Health-Food.** — This is a 16-page honey-pamphlet intended to help increase the demand for honey. The first part of it contains a short article on "Honey as Food," written by Dr. C. C. Miller. It tells where to keep honey, how to liquefy it, etc. The last part is devoted to "Honey-Cooking Recipes" and "Remedies Using Honey." It should be widely circulated by those selling honey. The more the people are educated on the value and uses of honey, the more honey they will buy.

Prices, prepaid—Sample copy for a 2-cent stamp; 50 copies for 70 cents; 100 for \$1.25; 250 for \$2.25; 500 for \$4.00; or 1000 for \$7.50. Your business card printed free at the bottom of front page on all orders for 100 or more copies. Send all orders to the office of the American Bee Journal.

# American Bee Journal



**Mr. Frank Rauchfuss**, of Denver, Colo., Manager of the Colorado Honey-Producers' Association, gave us a brief call last week when on his way home. He had been visiting in Louisville, Ky., and other cities. He reports a fair honey crop in Colorado this year, and that the Association of which he is manager continues to "do business at the old stand."

**An Irish Estimate** of "Our Bee-Keeping Sisters" department, and its capable "conductor," is thus given by Editor Digges in the valuable Irish Bee Journal for December:

The American Bee Journal is called in the States the "Old Reliable," and is one of those ever fresh, ever welcome publications that no bee-man worth a dollar and a half can afford to do without. Of that attractive Journal, one of the most delightful departments is that of "Our Bee-Keeping Sisters." It is conducted by Miss Emma M. Wilson, whose portrait appears in the title-block, and whose wisdom, and graceful treatment of a vast variety of subjects makes us sigh, from week to week, for the uprising in this old land of some bee-keeping sister with like gifts of head and heart, to stir the silent sisterhood of European beedom.

**Mr. Morley Pettit**, who, during the past year, has been conducting the Department of "Canadian Beedom" in this Journal, finds it necessary to discontinue that work on account of taking up another line which requires all his time and thought. The following letter explains the change more in detail:

DEAR FRIEND YORK:—Every once in a while there seem to be hard things come up for us to do, and I have met one of them now. Since I decided to go into the ministerial work I started studying and working along that line, and have found it more and more difficult to give "Canadian Beedom" its due. Formerly, a bee-paper—the "Old Reliable" or some other—was my constant companion for reading in spare moments. My work was bee-keeping, and my best thought was given to that business.

Now it is different. The Conference of the Methodist Church has given me a circuit with 3 churches at which to hold services, and do pastoral work. This, with the fairly heavy course of studies which will cover 4 or 5 years, so fully take up my time that bee-papers remain almost unopened, and I find myself already out of touch with apicultural thought.

In view of this I must, although very reluctantly, I assure you, give up "Canadian Beedom." I shall hope to contribute articles occasionally, but that may possibly be only a hope, as the new work seems to take practically all my thought.

Yours very truly,  
MORLEY PETTIT.

While we also regret the necessity which seems to require the giving up of "Canadian Beedom" by Mr. Pettit, we recognize the prior claims upon him of a higher call which

he has received—a call to the work of the ministry. We can only wish Mr. Pettit the largest success in his chosen field of labor. He will be well equipped for it, and doubtless will be as successful in the pulpit, and doing pastoral work, as he was in working with the bees. He will also be able to draw many a sweet lesson from his former vocation.

## A New York Bee-Keepers' Institute

The honey has gone to market, and the bees are in the hive,  
But the bee-man is always busy, sure as you're alive;  
In winter he is planning for the summer that's to come,  
And when the bees are swarming "you bet" he's "going some."  
And so the year rolls quickly by, with its winter and its summer,  
For the bee-man he gets busy, and I tell you he's a hummer.  
But there comes a time, it's between the hay and grass,  
When it's well to stop and ponder before we let it pass,  
For these Institutes are catchy, and full of good advice,  
And so before you miss them just "think it over twice."

—Taken from an Institute Program.

**The Illinois State Convention** was held Nov. 20 and 21, at Springfield. Secretary Stone sends the following brief report:

Although we had heavy rains both days of our meeting, there was a good attendance.

Pres. C. P. Dadant, of the National; Pres. J. E. Johnson, of the Western Illinois; Secretary R. A. Holekamp, of the Missouri State Association, were all present, besides about 20 members from different parts of the State. The railroad transportation being better than the wagon-roads, most of those present came by rail.

Mr. Dadant read a paper on "Drone-Laying Workers," by request of the committee assigning the subjects. Mr. Johnson read a paper, entitled, "In the Poor Years Prepare for the Good Years Which are to Follow."

The time was well taken up by the question-box and the business of the meeting. The officers elected are as follows, for the ensuing year:

President, J. Q. Smith, of Lincoln; 1st Vice-President, J. E. Johnson, of Williamsfield; 2d, S. N. Black, of Clayton; 3d, E. J. Baxter, of Nauvoo; 4th, A. L. Kildow, of Putnam; 5th, W. H. Hyde, of New Canton; Secretary, Jas. A. Stone, Route 4, Springfield; Treasurer, Chas. Becker, of Pleasant Plains; and Foul Brood Inspector, J. Q. Smith, of Lincoln.

The committee to bring bills before the Legislature is as follows: Messrs. Dadant, Johnson, and Stone, with the Executive Committee.

By vote it was ordered that each bee-keepers' society in the State that affiliates with the State Association by sending 25 cents per member as dues, should be allowed to send a delegate to the next annual meeting of the State Association, the railroad fares of such delegates to be paid by the State Association.

JAS. A. STONE, Sec.

**Good-Nature**, like the little busy bee, collects sweetness from every herb; while ill-nature, like the spider, collects poison from honeyed flowers.—Selected.



## BioGraphs of Beeomites

DR. JOHN DZIERZON

Last week we announced the death of Dzierzon, the great German bee-keeper. We take the following, including the two illustrations, from Gleanings:

We have to chronicle the death, on Oct. 26, 1906, of the Rev. John Dzierzon, D. D., Father Emeritus in the Catholic Church, at his home in Lowkowitz, a hamlet near Kreutzburg, Silesia, Prussia. He was born in the same place, Jan. 11, 1811, probably in the same house in which he died, so that, had he lived a few weeks more, he would have celebrated his 96th birthday, or 25 years over the allotted three-score and ten.

He was born just 17 days after L. L. Langstroth, the father and founder of American bee-keeping. In many ways these men greatly resembled each other. Both lived to a good old age—the one 85 and the other 95; both were clergymen, typical of their country, and both were founders of a great school of bee-keeping and both died in October, after long and useful lives. Though Father Dzierzon

spent his whole life in the same little hamlet, he was not without honor in his own country. He was of Polish extraction, and lived only a short distance from the Polish line. We hear much nowadays about environment and heredity, and believers in both will find that Dr. Dzierzon's life bears testimony to the value of both, for the Poles are great bee-keepers, and, owing largely to the presence of large amounts of linden (basswood), that part of Europe is a great bee-country, although the subject of our sketch had to depend very largely on the blue corn-flower (*Centurea cyanus*) and buckwheat for almost all his surplus honey. The Poles are a gifted race.

In his early years young Dzierzon must have been greatly impressed with the horrors of war, for he lived in a region decimated by Napoleon in his great campaign against Russia. It hardly seems possible that one man's life would connect us with the great battles of Friedland, Eylau, and Borodino; but here we have to do with a great bee-keeper who could do it, and who died only last month. But the people were sick of glory and carnage, and devoted themselves with great industry for many years to the arts of peace. Dzierzon chose the peaceful vocation of pastor of a church in Karismarkt,

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DZIERZON'S HOME FOR 25 YEARS AT LOWKOWITZ, UPPER SILESIA, GERMANY.  
—From Gravenhorst's Practical Bee-Keeper.

a near-by town, and, as a pastime, to the art of bee-keeping, and in due season became the chiefest of bee-keepers in the two great empires of Germany and Austria-Hungary.

Some too enthusiastic followers have claimed for Dr. Dzierzon honors which he himself never laid claim to—the invention of movable frames. In his "Rational Bee-Keeping," published in 1878, he strongly approves frames and fixtures far inferior to those shown in Langstroth's book published in 1852, and inferior to Huber's hive invented in the 18th century. Dr. Dzierzon was also strongly op-

and he maintained this business long after he ceased to be an active clergyman. He would have been called a queen-breeder specialist in this country, and he was a very able one, without a doubt. He was a very prolific writer on apicultural subjects, both in journals and books. As a practical bee-keeper he possessed the keenest acumen coupled with intense observation powers, so that he was a wise guide to those in need of advice concerning bee-keeping operations. He also possessed the power of bringing people around to his way of thinking, and compelling them to adopt improvements. These attributes were necessary in him, living as he did among a people who were intensely conservative, and suspicious of all improvements to a degree that Americans can not understand.

Thousands of our fellow bee-keepers in Europe will mourn the death of their great leader, and American followers of the craft will sympathize very sincerely with them in their loss,

which is a bereavement to a worldwide company of bee-keepers.

W. K. MORRISON.

Dzierzon introduced in his country the system of movable combs. His hives did not have frames, but only top-bars, and the combs were removed by cutting them loose from the side-walls at each visit. In spite of the difficulties of this method he made many important observations on bee-culture.

Thus passes from the field of agriculture another one of the great leaders. Langstroth and Dzierzon—two never-to-be-forgotten names in the list of those who have helped to make bee-keeping a pleasant and profitable business.



## A Consideration of Bee-Diseases

BY ADRIAN GETAZ.

On page 704, Mr. L. B. Smith relates some experiences and calls for experts (?) to explain. The third one is easily accounted for. The swarm followed one of the young queens that were out to mate. The queen mated and went back home. The swarm finding itself "left" could not do otherwise than to go back home, also. The destruction of the queen-cells is easily accounted for. Soon after the swarm issued, Mrs. Smith put the queen back. As most of the bees were out, the queen-cells were not well protected, and the old queen succeeded in destroying them during the 20 or 30 minutes that elapsed before the swarm returned. I have had similar cases a number of times. As to the other "experiences," I can not answer, but, after looking all over my books and papers to find something, I concluded that the following may possibly help toward reaching a solution:

### A PECULIAR DISEASE.

A new disease was observed by several bee-keepers in a section of Germany some 10 years ago. Young bees unable to fly came out and died in heaps, and much of the brood was dried up, retaining its form. Specimens of the bees and brood were sent to Pastor Schonfeld. He found the bees entirely devoid of moisture. They could not be cut with a knife, but flew to pieces when a strong pressure was applied. The cause was found to be a fungus in the alimentary canal. Death ensued whenever it had developed sufficiently to effect a stoppage. The hard larvae were composed almost entirely of fungus, which even pierced the tender skin between the rings and showed upon the outside of the body. At first, Schonfeld thought it the fungus known as *Oidium Leuckarti*, first described by Prof. Leuckart, in

1857, which causes injurious but not disastrous effects in the intestines of the bees; but a culture in sugar and gelatin showed it to be a new and different species. It is closely related to the *Oidium Leuckarti*, but still more to the *Oidium albicans* which attacks the mouths of infants. A few similar cases have been reported more recently in Germany.

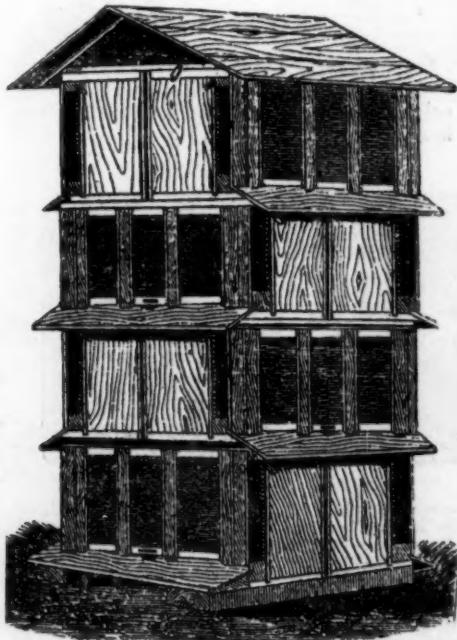
### QUEENS DISAPPEARING.

When a colony has the pickled-brood disease, the queen invariably dies or disappears in some way. She probably takes the disease, and dies. This supposition is well justified by the fact that she receives from the bees the same kind of food as the larvae. According to Dr. Howard the disease is caused by a kind of mold or fungus that propagates itself in the pollen as well as in the bodies of the larvae. When the disease has reached a certain point, the bees cease to bring in pollen, and also cease to rear brood. Eventually the queen disappears, what brood is sound hatches out, and the dead brood dries and is carried out by the bees. And when the bee-keeper visits the colony, he finds it queenless and no sign of queen-cells or any attempt at rearing one. That has invariably been my experience.

### RECENT DEVELOPMENTS.

The question of foul brood and other similar diseases is now on top again. The assertions made lately by some prominent writers seem to be somewhat premature.

Foul brood has been known for quite a long time and has been confounded with several other diseases that affect the bees. The first serious study of it was made in Germany in 1873 or 1874. Ten years later Cheshire and Cheyne made a complete investigation, and described accurately the disease and the bacillus that produces it. The experiments made leave no doubt as to the correctness of their observations. Ten



THE DZIERZON HIVE.  
—From Gravenhorst's Book.

posed to movable roofs, one of the most important features of Langstroth's hives. But, nevertheless, he worked out a system of bee-keeping which achieved great results in Germany and Austria-Hungary.

Dr. Dzierzon was the chief agent in discovering parthenogenesis as applied to bees, and it is on this that his fame, I think, will rest—at least we on this side of the Atlantic will so regard it. He had great assistance, however, from Professors Leuckart and von Siebold in proving the theory to be true; in fact, their part of the work called for greater skill than his. He was a great believer in the utility of the Italian bee, and bred and sold thousands of colonies during his long career;

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or 12 years ago, Prof. Harrison took up again the subject and investigated it thoroughly and verified in every detail the assertions of Cheshire and Cheyne.

In 1902 Lambotte, of Liege, Belgium, announced that the *Bacillus alveus* producing foul brood was the same thing as the *bacillus mesentericus vulgaris* which is often met in decaying substances. He described the experiments that led him to these conclusions.

A year or so later, Cowan, in England, and Bertrand, in Switzerland, went over the ground and succeeded in showing that Dr. Lambotte was mistaken. It is only just here to explain that all the bacilli are very minute things, barely visible with the strongest microscope, and very much alike. Also that the *bacillus mesentericus vulgaris* produces a glue-like or gummy substance very much like that found in the foul-brood disease.

Recently Dr. Burri, of Zurich (Switzerland) made another investigation. A first study on some samples of diseased brood sent him showed three stages of the disease. In the first, the larvae are not changed in form, and are full of bacilli, but no spores are present. Gradually the larvae pass into the second stage, die and become soft and glue-like and turn to a brown color. This substance is elastic and can be pulled in threads. Numerous spores are formed, and finally the dead larvae dries up and nothing is left but a dry scale adhering to the lower side of the cell and full of spores.

An attempt at cultivation was a complete failure, just such as Dr. Lambotte met with. The *bacillus mesentericus* was occasionally found, but seems to have gotten in accidentally, as it does in other putrefying substances. But little odor was observed. The impossibility of cultivating the bacillus of that disease and the accidental presence of the *bacillus mesentericus* explain how Dr. Lambotte took the last for the cause of the malady.

Other samples gave entirely different results. Bacilli and spores were found together; the spores were much larger than those described above, the rotten, glue-like odor was very pronounced, the cultures easily made, and the *bacillus alvei* fully identified. In a word, that was the genuine foul brood.

Accompanying foul brood, Prof. Burri found what he has called "acid-brood." This is caused by non-motile bacteria which do not form spores. In the acid brood, the larvae do not turn into anything like a glue-like substance, but, while very soft, retain their form and can be pulled out of the cells at any time.

Some study of bee-dysentery has also been made. Several kinds of microbes have been seen but not yet studied. It seems certain that the disease is at least sometimes, if not always, of bacterial origin. There are probably 2 or possibly 3 different diseases in what is usually called dysentery.

#### CHESHIRE'S OBSERVATIONS.

As far back as Cheshire's times, it was already known, or rather suspected, that what was called foul brood covered more than one disease. After describ-

ing the regular foul brood, or rather the disease produced by the *bacillus alvei*, and bee-paralysis, he gives a short description accompanied with drawings of the following cases (Vol. I., pages 571 and following):

1. From a number of bees sent by a correspondent, two bacilli were found growing side by side. One was quite large and collected in dense plates (zoo-gloea form), and the other a very small form. The large bacilli had been met by him once before, and seems to be sometimes excessively destructive.

2. Another kind of bacillus was found only once in a queen sent him, and was remarkable for a peculiar form on its flagella.

3. A queen of very large size, but with rather small legs, was found to be too weak to continue on the comb. On opening her body, a thin, milky fluid escaped from the opening with astonishing rapidity. Examination revealed it to be full—not of bacilli, but of another kind of fungus, of the class called *micrococcii*. This was the only case of that kind that he ever met.

4. Another queen sent him was young yet, but scarcely laid at all. In her brood were found millions of very minute and very strange organisms. These multiply by division and carry a comparatively thick envelope through which darker cross-markings can be distinguished. Only one case of that sort was met with.

5. A distinction must be made between an overloading of the bowels of the bees, due to long confinement, and a distension produced by the multiplication of fermentive germs. He gives a drawing of an organism found in multitudes in the bodies of dysenteric, or rather diarrhetic, bees. That organism under cultivation showed itself to be one of the *phycomyces*. Other dysenteric bees contained a true *torula*.

6. He also states that at the time of the above writing, he had under experiment another kind which had presented itself in the apiary of Rev. G. Raynor, and which seemed to be about as destructive as the *bacillus alvei*, but the study was not yet sufficiently ad-

vanced to give any reliable details.

In Langstroth Revised, page 446 (edition of 1888), I find stated that according to the English microscopists, there are two kinds of *bacillus alvei*, the *major* and the *minor*.

#### A BEE-HOSPITAL.

The researches made at the U. S. Department of Agriculture are, as far as I know, very unsatisfactory. And I do not wonder that it is so. All that they have to work on are samples of dead brood sent them by Tom, Dick, and Harry, who think it is foul brood; but in 99 cases out of 100, could not tell the difference between foul brood, small-pox, and hog-cholera. By the time the sample reaches the Department, numerous germs from the atmosphere have come in contact with it and multiplied at pleasure; putrefaction has set in; the disease probably run out of its course, and the whole is nothing but a useless, rotten affair of no account whatever.

What makes Cheshire's observations valuable is the fact that he had the colonies right by him. He observed them for several years, followed the disease in the living bees at all the stages, examined bees, queens, and drones in all their organs and experimented thoroughly. Add to this his ability and long experience as entomologist, microscopist, and chemist; and it will be seen at once that his assertions deserve far more consideration than those of a few modern writers who lately have assailed his teachings and posed themselves as far ahead of him and other "old fogies."

And that is the only kind of investigation that will ever amount to anything. Procure colonies of diseased bees and study them thoroughly. In a word, a kind of bee-hospital. Who can do it? The Government or the National Bee-Keepers' Association? Needless to add that a first-class bacteriologist should be employed. Foul-brood inspectors, large and successful bee-keepers, eminent writers, etc., do not amount to anything when it comes to handling the microscope. They might learn with enough time, but their preconceived notions would hinder them considerably.



Conducted by EMMA M. WILSON, Marengo, Ill.

#### A Holiday Greeting

Here's wishing "A Merry Christmas" and a "Happy New Year" to each and every one of the bee-keeping sisters. And with the wish comes a glow of thankfulness for the kind words that have encouraged throughout the year, and for the help from the many pens

that have made this department more enjoyable.

May the coming year be better to all of you than any year that has gone before; may more sweetness flow for you; and may your interest in the busy little bee never grow less.

EMMA M. WILSON.

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## Women Bee-Keepers in Austria

England is not the only country in the world whose bee-keepers have a woman in the highest place of honor. On the occasion of the Austrian association of bee-keepers obtaining its 10,000th member (only think of a membership of 10,000!), the president, Herr Oswald Muck, issued in Bienen-Vater a congratulatory letter which closed with the following words:

"And so shall we also in the future, to the joy of our highest protectress, her most Serene Highness, the Archduchess Maria Josefa, remain a united nation of bee-keepers."

Bienen-Vater never fails to fly at its mast-head the additional fact that for 30 years the society was under the wing of Her Majesty, the Empress Elizabeth.

## A Somewhat Feminine Convention

One-fourth of the special car-load to San Antonio were of the female persuasion. If the same proportion held good at the convention, it was no doubt the most feminine convention ever held on the continent.

## Black Color and Bees

That picture of Mr. Whitney's "Black-Stockinged Little Girl" with explanatory note, page 978, is evidently intended to prove that bees have no special antipathy to black. But doesn't it prove too much? Doesn't it prove just as well that bees have no antipathy to bare heads, and that bee-veils are never necessary? If Mr. Whitney's bees were so gentle that he felt entirely safe to trust a confiding child to hold a frame of bees bare-headed, one would hardly expect them to sting any clothing, even the blackest. For it is not believed that black has such an influence upon bees that it will enrage good-natured bees so as to make them sting; only that when they are cross, or inclined that way, they will sting black more readily than white. Proofs of that, Mr. Whitney, have not been lacking in this locality.

## Honey Caramels and Cookies

I wonder how many of the sisters use as much honey as they might while planning their Christmas menu. Two of the standard articles in our locality are honey-caramels and honey-cookies. We don't get tired of either of these, and we think them delicious. I have had a good many calls for the recipe for these honey-cookies, and this holiday season is the season of the year when these calls are likely to be most frequent.

If any of the sisters have never as yet indulged in these excellent cookies, here is the recipe:

One cup of sugar; 1 cup of honey; 1 cup shortening (a good, generous one);  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup sour cream (this may be omitted if you don't have it, but it is an improvement); 1 teaspoonful soda; cinnamon and nutmeg to suit taste; enough melted chocolate to color a good brown. "Mix enough flour to roll out. Be careful

not to get too much flour. Try one cookie, then if more flour is needed, add until you get just right.

When company comes and some of the cookies are on the table, be sure to mention the fact that they are *honey-cookies*. That opens the way to do a little advertising that can be in no possible way objectionable. Just say something in effect like this; "I like these honey-cookies so much better than cookies made with sugar. Not only do they suit the taste of most people better, but they are so much more wholesome for children—yes, and for grown-ups, too. Then you may not know that honey has that peculiar quality that makes honey-cookies keep moist and fresh for weeks where sugar-cookies would become dry and stale."

If each of the sisters would do her share along this line it would, in the aggregate, amount to something worth while.

The recipe for honey-caramels is as follows:

One cup extracted honey of best flavor, 1 cup granulated sugar and 3 tablespoonfuls sweet cream or milk. Boil to "soft crack," or until it hardens when dropped into cold water, but not too brittle—just so it will form into a soft ball when taken in the fingers. Pour into a greased dish, stirring in a tea-spoonful extract of vanilla just before taking off. Let it be  $\frac{1}{2}$  or  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch deep in the dish; and as it cools, cut in squares and wrap each square in paraffine paper, such as grocers wrap butter in. To make chocolate caramels, add to the foregoing 1 tablespoonful melted chocolate, just before taking off the stove, stirring it in well. For chocolate-caramels it is not so important that the honey be of best quality.



Conducted by LOUIS H. SCHOLL, New Braunfels, Tex.

## The Old Year and the New

Another year is nearly gone, and the new one is coming. What have been your successes and what your failures for the past season, and what are you contemplating for the coming year? What improvements will you make, and what will you do to improve bee-keeping? These and many other things could and should be profitably discussed in "Southern Beedom," and a lot of such discussions and brief articles will be greatly appreciated, to make our department the best in the "Old Reliable."

To those who have so kindly corresponded with me during the present year, I wish to extend many thanks, and hope I may be favored with many letters again during 1907. With many earnest intentions to make everything better than ever before, I wish one and all

A MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND  
A HAPPY NEW YEAR.  
LOUIS H. SCHOLL.

## Another Remedy for Bee-Paralysis

Mr. J. K. Hill, of Uvalde, Texas, at one time lost about 50 colonies one season from bee-paralysis, and says that although this disease is very common in the southern portion of the United States, in most cases it does but little harm to the colonies. But in other cases, and under certain conditions, it is very destructive. There is no treatment yet discovered that is an absolute cure, but the best remedy, to his knowledge, is as follows:

Tincture of podophyllin, 3 oz.; sul-

phuric acid, 1 oz.; honey, 1 gallon; and hot water  $\frac{1}{2}$  gallon. Mix, and sprinkle the combs, bees and brood with the warm solution thoroughly. Three applications should effect a cure. As the disease is caused from constipation, the podophyllin acts as a laxative, and the acid as a disinfectant.

## San Antonio Convention, Fair, Etc.

The National Bee-Keepers' Convention held in San Antonio, Tex., Nov. 8, 9, and 10, was a grand success, although not so well attended by our Texas bee-keepers as I had hoped for. We suppose this was owing partly to the very short honey crop of Texas.

### THE HONEY AT THE SAN ANTONIO FAIR.

We were somewhat disappointed in the honey exhibit at the Fair at San Antonio. Not in the style and neatness of the exhibit, for that was a credit to any fair, but in the quality of the honey exhibited. For instance, we saw honey labeled, "Honey from the Cotton-Blooms" that was almost as dark as honey-dew. The same was true of the honey labeled, "Sumac Honey." This was a great injustice to our almost water-clear cotton-honey, and beautiful, straw-colored sumac-honey. Perhaps, however, this was the best that could be done owing to the poor season for bees.

### NEXT YEAR'S PROSPECTS.

The prospects for a honey crop for 1907 are not so bright as we sometimes have, owing to the very dry fall we have had. For this locality, however, we do not feel in the least discouraged,

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as most of our surplus of marketable honey comes from the mesquite bloom and sumac, and the mesquite always does best in dry years for us; and if it rains through June and July, we are sure of a crop of honey in August from sumac.

#### WHY NOT COTTON A HONEY-PLANT?

You say, Mr. Scholl (page 915), in a foot-note, "You did not mention cotton, which I thought was a useful honey-yielder in your section—north central Texas." No, I did not mention cotton as a surplus honey-yielder of this locality, from the fact that I have lived here 16 years and have never yet had surplus honey from the cotton-bloom; not that cotton does not yield in this locality, but farming is not carried on as extensively in this county (Lampasas) as in most parts of the State, on account of so much waste or poor land. It is difficult to find a location in this country where an apiary could have access to say 500 acres of cotton without traveling a distance of several miles. That is why I didn't mention cotton as a surplus-honey yielder here.

#### NAMES OF HONEY-PLANTS.

Possibly it will help you, Mr. Scholl, to identify the little blue flower as mentioned by me on page 915, as a honey-plant of this locality, to say that it blooms in April, and that it grows to a height of about 6 inches, and the bees become dusted on their backs with white pollen, the same as they do when working on horsemint. I can remember seeing bees work on these beautiful little blue flowers 40 years ago, when only a small boy in Bosque County, Texas. I can also remember seeing bees work on wild marigold and horsemint at the same time—or year, I might have said—as they don't bloom at the same time.

#### STUDY AND KNOW YOUR HONEY-PLANTS.

It is very important that we should know the honey-plants of our locality, that is, those that furnish our surplus. To illustrate: A bee-keeping friend of mine saw me this summer as I was visiting one of my out-yards at the close of sumac-bloom, and said to me, "Say, Mr. Smith, how are you off for comb-foundation for brood-frames?" I told him I was well supplied, that I had used less than one-fourth of what I had ordered owing to the poor season. Then he said, "I should like to get about 30 pounds of you, as my bees are crowded for room and rolling in the honey." I told him I was somewhat surprised, as my bees were not getting much if anything above a living; that the flow was over at all my yards, 2 of which were not over 5 miles from his bees. But he insisted that his bees were getting honey fast.

It later developed, however, that the flow was over with his bees the same as mine, and that the foundation I let him have was worse than useless to him, as the bees only gnawed around the wires in the frames and damaged the foundation, without drawing out a single sheet of it. If he had known the time of his honey-flow, and had put on

his supers 3 weeks earlier, he would have secured a crop of honey, and have had his foundation drawn out into beautiful combs.

I have given the above so that our novice friends may see the importance of knowing the time of their honey-flow.

L. B. SMITH.

Rescue, Texas.

#### Management of Swarms, Etc.

After a second reading of Mr. Dayton's article, on page 931, I wish to make a few remarks and suggestions lest some beginners may make some mistakes. In speaking of hiving swarms it would appear that Mr. Dayton does not hive them on the old stands, which is the only safe way to hive swarms and secure surplus honey when the honey-flow is near at hand.

It may, and it may not, be best to prevent swarming, but in this locality I prefer to make my own swarms at the proper time, and give all swarms a young queen of unquestionable quality.

It appears to me that testing a swarm in a box is not only useless, but a waste of time for bees and man. In speaking of improvements in bees, Mr. D. says "only Nature can make the improvements, and Nature should be allowed as free a hand as is possible to give." Right here I must disagree with Mr. D., for if I or any other queen-breeders would fear queens from any colonies that prepare cells for swarming, only rejecting the poorest colonies, we could not hope for any improvements in our

bees. We must select as breeders the very best honey-gathering colonies, not only for queen-mothers, but drone-mothers as well. The size of hive has little to do with swarming in this locality.

An old or deficient queen is often the cause of swarms issuing before the hive is in any way crowded. Such swarms are as likely to leave for parts unknown as those with the best of queens. It sometimes happens that nothing will hold the swarm except clipping or caging the queen. A large natural swarm is not always sufficient proof of a valuable queen. I have had large swarms issue with queens 4 years old, one of which never laid an egg after hiving. Mr. D. says he has often seen prime swarms issue with the old and several young queens. In this Mr. D. is mistaken, for such swarms are not prime swarms, but are caused by superseding, and happen more frequently than is usually supposed, and the old queen usually meets her doom shortly after the swarm is hived. The old, clipped queen Mr. D. mentions was immediately balled when trying to re-enter her hive, because her usefulness was past, and the bees had young queens to take her place. She would have been killed had she been hived with the swarm and one or more young queens at liberty in the hive.

In conclusion I will say, Don't waste the bees' time by confining the queen in a box for several days, as such waste of time often means a waste of dollars and cents.

Sabinal, Tex. GRANT ANDERSON.



The "Old Reliable" as seen through New and Unreliable Glasses,  
By E. E. HASTY, Sta. B. Rural, Toledo, Ohio.

#### THE GREAT DZIERZON HAS FALLEN.

When a great tree falls in the vale we walk its prostrate trunk and meditate how great it was, and how tall; but when a great tree falls on the mountain it falls out of sight. Dzierzon, tree on the mountain, has fallen. Oft we say a multitude of things to the credit of our departed leaders, and praise the things which they did for the craft—and get a good deal beyond the combines of strict, altruistic truth. But unless we make an effort to be just we shall not give the one whom we now mourn half the credit he deserves.

#### SOME MOUSE-AND-HONEY EXPERIMENTS.

At the risk of being called afflicted with mice on the brain I think I will quote considerably, and with notes, from the book in which I record my mouse experiments:

Friday, Oct. 19.—Now for Daniel in the lions' den! Put a 12-oz. section of white honey at 10 p. m. in the dining room of Alpha and Beta. They have besides the section a cracker, 10 sunflower seeds, 10 squash seeds, a chestnut sliced, and water. Observed awhile when first let in. As usual, much scampering and not much eating. Early and frequent sips of water. What eating they did do was almost wholly on the cracker. The section was inspected—could not see if they did anything to it. (These frequent sips of water during meals are surprising, seeing that mice so generally have to live, and even breed, entirely without water.)

Saturday, Oct. 20.—The section? (O Daniel, did the lions incline to nibble thee?) *Freckled*—with little places where the capping is off—rather as if from sharp toes climbing up it than otherwise. On one side 14 of these abra-

# American Bee Journal

sions and 10 on the other. Average size of these spots about one-fourth the area of a cell-top. Not all the same shape. Tried picking another such spot with a pin to see if it would look the same. About the same as most of them. From a few it is possible that tiny sips of honey have been extracted to taste it. Don't look at all like the *usual* work of mice on a pile of honey. (Another surprising thing is the low estimate they put on chestnuts. They didn't even play with the slices given in this experiment.)

Sunday, Oct. 21.—The section with another night's exposure (one side pushed against the wall) has the number of abrasions on the exposed side increased from 10 to 16. Out of about 3 of them tiny sips of honey have apparently been taken—to the total bulk of about one or two big drops of water—and these three breaks are a trifle larger than those described yesterday.

Monday, Oct. 22.—A third night of exposure of the section increases the abrasions on the exposed from 16 to 20. One cell, so situated that two sides and an end are exposed, is now so broken that the honey runs out. And the amount of two or three drops more have been taken apparently.

It remains to see how they will treat the section when they have no other food. I overhauled and cleaned their inner premises, to remove any food uneaten which they may have carried in; and to-night they are to have water and the section of honey, and nothing else. Alpha seemed surprised not to find the usual food in the dining-room when he came in.

Tuesday, Oct. 23.—Well, one day's fast is not enough to make my mice eat anything like a meal of honey. They did about the same as previous nights. Abrasions increased in number from 20 to 24. The side cell that was leaking now has its sides entirely broken away—honey, much of it spread over the face of the comb—some very likely eaten. Total eating not more than three or four drops, apparently. (By creatures accustomed to eat one-third their weight at one banquet.)

Wednesday, Oct. 24.—Another day of fasting passed. I saw them sip honey quite eagerly when let in. But the amount taken, both then and during the whole night, was small—a trifle compared with what mice eat of things they like. Abrasions increased from 24 to 27. Now think the teeth and not the toes make the abrasions. I estimate the total honey taken in 2 days of fasting, plus 3 days of full feeding, at 12 cells. A section has room for nearly 800 cells, containing 14 ounces actual honey—57 cells to the ounce—7½ grains to the cell. Then their total eating, if I figure right, is about 92 grains—a little more than the weight of two dimes.

Well, what now? I was wrong in claiming, that mice *never* eat honey till starved; and my critics were wrong in claiming that they eat enough to amount to anything. And pretty severe starving doesn't make them eat a meal of it, either. Apparently they regard honey as a man regards, say cloves, as not food at all, but a pleasant *et cetera* to be tasted of now and then. I didn't want

these mice to eat one another—wanted them for more experiments—and so did not push them quite to the alternative of—eat honey or die.

My section after 5 nights of exposure looks so totally different from the usual work of mice on a pile of honey that I am confirmed in my previously-expressed opinion that the usual peeling off of cappings is to lap the surface for water.

And the practical, What shall we do, therefore? Well, don't pile sections where mice can go if you can help it. But if you kind o' have to do so, just

put a saucer of water by your pile and don't worry. If you can add a trap or two, so much the better. I wish some time to repeat this experiment with other mice, and also to try their opinion of "bee-bread," and to try them on comb full of dead bees crawled in, but I haven't found time yet. Can't give them many moth-larvae till next year—and it hardly needs experiments to prove that they do a good job in cleaning combs of worms. Mousie, although not counted among the carnivora, has a ravenous longing for an occasional treat of animal food.



Conducted by MORLEY PETTIT, Villa Nova, Ont.

## Ontario Association's Officers

The following were recently elected for the ensuing year:

### DIRECTORS FOR DISTRICTS.

No. 1.—W. J. Brown, Chard.  
No. 2.—A. A. Fewer, Renfrew.  
No. 3.—M. B. Holmes, Athens.  
No. 4.—R. Lowey, Cherry Valley.  
No. 5.—Jas. Storer, Lindsay.  
No. 6.—Wm. Couse, Streetsville.  
No. 7.—J. F. Switzer, Orangeville.  
No. 8.—Jas. Armstrong, Cheshire.  
No. 9.—R. H. Smith, St. Thomas.  
No. 10.—G. A. Deadman, Brussels.  
No. 11.—J. F. Miller, London.  
No. 12.—Denis Nolan, Newton Robinson.  
No. 13.—Prof. Sherman, O. A. College, Guelph.

Next place of meeting, Toronto.  
Auditors—J. L. Byer and E. Grainger.  
Representative to the Toronto Exhibition—E. Grainger, Toronto.

Representative to the Ottawa Exhibition—J. K. Darling, Almonte.

Representative to the London Exhibition—J. B. Hall, Woodstock.

Revising Committee—Morley Pettit and H. G. Sibbald.

Crop Report Committee—H. G. Sibbald, W. J. Craig and Wm. Couse.

Transportation Committee—R. F. Holtermann, Wm. Couse and J. D. Evans.

President, elected by the directors, R. H. Smith.

## Improvement of Bee-Stock

D. M. Macdonald wisely says this in the British Bee Journal:

If bee-keepers would only spend half as much time over this question as they do over some other things, the whole bee-keeping world would be better off.

Neither does that mean that a few of the greater lights should turn their attention to it, for every bee-keeper with only 5 colonies can make a difference in his yields by seeing that new queens come from his best colonies. And as has been heretofore shown, he may do no little in this direction without ever seeing a queen—even with box-hives.

## Unadorned Flowers

While adornment is so universally the measure of worth, it is natural that flowers should be prized for their bright and rich decorations rather than for the vital parts for which the gay trappings exist. Decorations have the universal charm that makes them measures of value for all time, and this is true alike of the wampum shells of the Indian and the gold of the Hebrew and his imitators. It is not unnatural that the unadorned flowers should be passed unnoticed when many that are rich in color and perfume will soon be crowding for recognition; but the early flowers, even if lacking the richer colors and forms of vesture that command attention and win admiration unstinted, are worthy of an eager welcome as the earliest offerings of the season.

The maples are now masses of flowers, insignificant if casually observed, but early, eager, and touched with the spirit of the season. On the male-trees of the silver maple every branch and twig is decorated with many bristling tufts of pale yellow. These buds are ready to fall and strew the pavements with the first vigorous wind or rain storm. The female trees are richer in color, but the delicate little threads of dark red are too small to give the multitude of buds a decorative aspect. They give the tree a decided tint, and their quick, rough growth closes the tracery that seemed so open against the sky during the naked winter. The red maple is still richer in the coloring of the opened buds that give it a distinctive name. These are spring flowers, filled with the spirit of renewed life, and worthy of the admiration freely bestowed on later and more gaily decorated arrivals.

The sugar maple is far more backward, its little bunches of drooping flowers remaining in their sheltering



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buds till the leaves begin to unfold. The elms are flowering, and it is unfortunate that their diminutive, purple-tipped flowers are confined to the higher branches, where they can be seen only as a denser entanglement of interlaced twigs. The elm is eager to welcome the spring with floral offerings, and, as if to hurry the season, is scattering her winged seeds before the summer has advanced. The pussies on the willows must have a place among the earliest of spring flowers, and their soft, downy coats, as they come forth from under their winter coverings, give them the welcome aspect of animation. The male trees are already showing yellow tints, and the pink-tipped pods of the female trees will soon be filled with light bunches of cottony seed.

The tall, slender Lombardy poplar is a male tree, whose mate has never been brought to this country. It is an unsociable tree, drawing its branches in to itself as if to avoid all contact with its fellows. From the early catkins of flower on the upper branches it scatters its wasted pollen to the passing air. On the alders in the swamp the catkins are expanding, elongating, and swaying with the faintest breeze, sending out little clouds of yellow that tint the adjacent twigs. The flowers borne on the branches of sturdy and vigorous trees may not come with offerings of rich and fascinating beauty, but their welcome is none the less cordial and sincere. They come in the universal spirit of awakening and renewal, an earnest of the perpetual youth of Mother Earth.—Editorial in Weekly Globe, Toronto.

## CONVENTION NOTICES.

**Kansas.**—The Kansas State Bee-Keepers' Association will hold its annual meeting on Thursday and Friday, Dec. 27 and 28, 1906, at the State Capitol, at 10 a.m., 2 p.m., and 7 p.m. of each day. Mr. C. P. Dadant, President of the National Bee-Keepers' Association, and Mr. E. T. Abbott, of St. Joseph, Mo., have both been invited, and will be present if possible. Papers on different subjects pertaining to bee-keeping will be in order, and the question-box will be one of the prominent features of the meeting. All interested in bee-keeping are requested to attend.

G. BOHRER, Pres.

O. A. KEENE, Sec.

**Michigan.**—The Michigan State Bee-Keepers' Association will meet at Big Rapids, Dec. 25 and 26, 1906, the meeting opening on the evening of the 25th and continuing through the next evening. We are working to make it the best attended convention we ever had. Low rates on the railroads.

ELMORE M. HUNT, Sec.

Bell Branch, Mich.

## Engravings For Sale

We are accumulating quite a stock of engravings that have been used in the American Bee Journal. No doubt many of them could be used again by bee-keepers in their local newspapers, on their stationery, or in other ways. Also, if we can sell some of them it would help us to pay for others that we are constantly having made and using in our columns. If there is any of our engravings that any one would like to have, just let us know and we will quote a very low price, postpaid. Address,

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### What Dr. Miller Thinks of the Bee-Hive Clock

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whether the idea of getting up such a clock was conceived in the brain of the Editor of the American Bee Journal, or whether he got it elsewhere, but the wonder is that such a thing was not thought of long before.

Setting aside all idea of its association with the business of a bee-keeper, there is a peculiar appropriateness in having the minutes and the hours "told off" in a case representing the home of the busy little workers. The glance at the clock, with its ceaseless tick, tick, tick, tick, can not fail to remind one that the flying moments must be improved now or be forever lost, and that suggestion is reinforced by the thought of the never ceasing activity of the little denizens of the hive, always busy, busy, busy, working from morn till night and from night till morn, working unselfishly for the generations to come, and literally dying in the harness.

Let us be thankful that the form of the old-fashioned straw hive or skep was adopted, and not that of any modern affair, patented or unpatented. The latter smacks of commercialism, but the former of solid comfort, for no other form of hive has ever been devised that contributes so fully to the comfort and welfare of a colony of bees as does the old-fashioned straw-hive. It appeals, too, to one's artistic sense as can no angular affair of more modern times. As an emblem of industry, artists have always used—probably always will use—the old straw skep.

Thanks, Mr. Editor, for furnishing us a time-keeper so appropriate for all, and especially for bee-keepers. C. C. MILLER.





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